

19 June 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR : The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : View From The Seventh Floor by
Walt W. Rostow

1. This memorandum is for information only. It brings to your attention Walt Rostow's new book View From The Seventh Floor.

2. With the exception of the introduction and some transition paragraphs, the book is primarily a re-run of speeches and articles which Rostow has written since coming to Washington in 1961. Mr. Chester Cooper has reviewed the book and makes the following comments:

"Long-range policy planning is a mixture of projection, estimating, and hope. In Rostow's recipe, there is a very substantial ingredient of hope. Walt is basically an optimist, and this seeps through most of his chapters. I finished the book in a glow of euphoria: time is on our side; the US has done just the right things over the past few years; our planning for the future is realistic, imaginative, and promising. There is only one question that still gnaws: why is it that as of mid-June 1964, we seem to be faced with so many apparently insoluble problems - Laos, Vietnam, Cyprus, the Congo, Cuba?"

3. It would appear that Part II of the book dealing with the Atlantic Community is the weakest because it is perhaps somewhat unrealistic. Part III, on North-South problems, shows Rostow at his best because it concerns itself with the economic problems of under-developed nations and, after all, Rostow is basically an economist. Therefore, this section is articulate, well-informed and quite realistic. It also includes a short chapter on guerrilla warfare, a subject dear to Rostow's heart.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FILE

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4. Virtually all of Rostow's theses expressed in this book will be familiar to those who have heard Rostow express them previously, either orally or in writing. However, the book is called to your attention because of your acquaintance with the author.

WALTER PFERSHEIMER

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